

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend numbered paragraph [0003] as follows:

[0003] Stylets are used in medical practice situations where the clinician desires to push the catheter into a body cavity or vessel. Naso-enteral feeding tubes are inserted with stylets, as are Groshong intravenous catheters. Stylets have constant stiffness over their entire, ~~however~~ length. ~~However, this~~ can be a disadvantage when the catheter must travel around acute angle bends or through valves or sphincters. Having the stylet constructed with a softer leading portion can be a disadvantage because in its course of travel the catheter may encounter obstructions that will not readily permit the entry of the leading softer portion of the stylet.